



The souimanga

Discovery
the fauna and flora of Madagascar



Tale for children
According to native american legend "The hummingbird"
Malagasy adaptation by *Catherine Rhiat*
Illustrations by *Colette Mayeur*

Association pour la Sauvegarde des Lémuriens de Madagascar

October 2015



**Long ago,
people
and
animals
lived happily
in the forest
of Madagascar.**



**Then, according to the legend of Ibabanikoto,
when the men were too numerous,
some decided to leave the forest to cultivate the land.**

To cultivate the land, they burned part of the forest.
This is the "burn".

They were then growing rice, cassava or other crops.

But after a few years,
the earth became
not very fertile

...

and a new part
of the forest had
to be burnt again.



**One day, when the men were making a fire
to be able to cultivate
a new piece of land,
the wind started to blow.**

**It blew so hard that
the flames attacked
the nearby trees.**

**There was nothing
the men could do
to stop him.**

The fire spread quickly.



All the animals in the forest were terrified,
helpless in the face of such a disaster.



Radiated Tortoise



Greater Bamboo Lemur



Dromicodryas quadrilineatus



Crested Coua



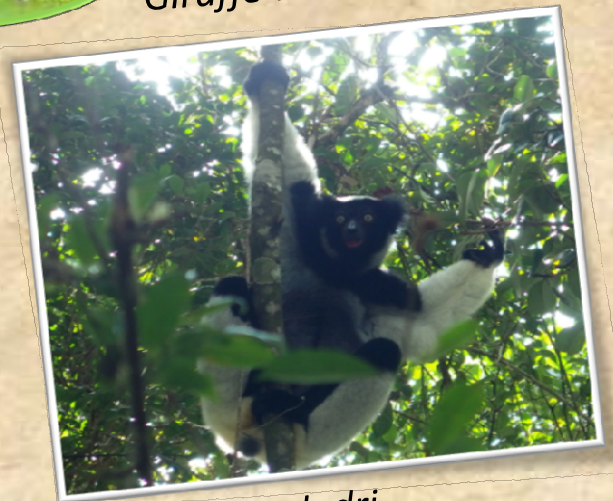
Giraffe-necked Weevil



Ring-tailed Vontsira



Golden Mantella



Indri

The lemurs,



the fosas,

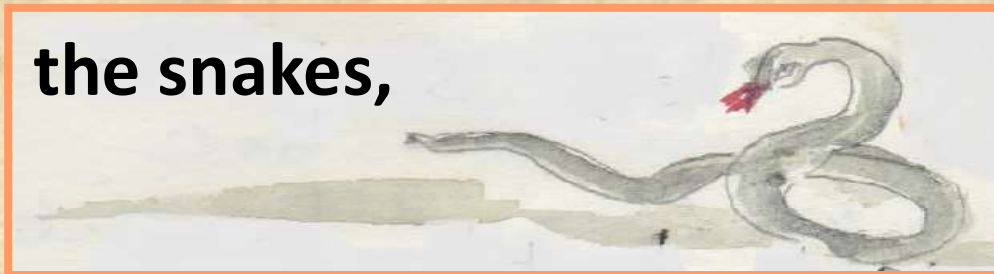


the birds,

the frogs,



the snakes,



the insects,



....

had never seen such a gigantic fire.



**While some fled, a little bird came and went :
a madagascan souimanga.**



<http://1000-pattes.blogspot.fr/2017/07/madagascar-j6-souimanga-malgache.html>



**This little bird kept bringing
a drop of water in its little beak
which he let fall on the flames.**

A young star tortoise hurrying away from the fire was surprised by the back and forth of the sunbird.



**You are crazy little souimanga,
you will exhaust yourself
doing these round trips.
Save yourself.
You won't be able to put out
this gigantic fire!**

**And the little souimanga
answered him :**

**I am not crazy...
I'm doing my part !**



**and you too,
you can do
your part !**



The animals looked at each other, astonished.

**The first to react was
the Great Hapalemur
who exclaimed :**



[https://robinhoskyns.wordpress.com
/tag/prolemur-simus/](https://robinhoskyns.wordpress.com/tag/prolemur-simus/)

**I'll help you
little sunbird.
I don't have a beak
but
I know how
to use bamboo.
I'll use it to
bring water!**



[http://tropical.theferns.info/image.php?id=C
athariostachys+madagascariensis](http://tropical.theferns.info/image.php?id=Cathariostachys+madagascariensis)

**The ring-tailed mongoose
also cried out:**



<https://www.pinterest.fr/pin/443323157040877712/?lp=true>

**and me,
with my claws,
I'm going
to dig trenches
in the dirt
to stop the fire
from advancing!**



**Then many animals joined them
and
together, they managed to put out the fire.**





gerp.squarespace.com
www.gerp.mg

Native American legend "The hummingbird"



Malagasy adaptation by *Catherine Rhiat*

Illustrations by *Colette Mayeur*

colibri59cr@gmail.com



http://m8.i.pbase.com/o2/37/741337/1/107115818.iKcT20Sy.SouimangaS_er2005.jpg



<http://directorsblog.health.azdhs.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/fire1.jpg>

Discovery
the fauna and flora of Madagascar

*Protecting Madagascar's biodiversity for future generations
requires knowledge of the Malagasy flora and fauna.*



Catherine Rhiat

Author and President of the Association

Association pour la Sauvegarde des Lémuriens de Madagascar



The forest is home to exceptional biodiversity that urgently needs to be protected.

It is a green lung of the planet, a reservoir of water and it stabilizes the soil.

**It protects us: it is a barrier during cyclones and helps us fight against
global warming.**

**We're all different,
we all have different abilities,
and we can join forces by each doing our part
for a great cause.**



I thank very much

Pr Jonah Ratsimbazafy

Primatologist and President of GERP

for his precious help and support



Groupe d'Etude et de Recherche sur les Primates de Madagascar